



A Million Steps for Child Care

Guidelines for Community Involvement

"A Million Steps for Child Care" is being organized to help highlight the dire need for a high caliber, affordable and accessible universal early learning and child care system for Canada's children and their families.

Shelagh Germyn from Campbell River has volunteered to run to Victoria to raise awareness among the general population, including the business and industry sector. Shelagh will leave CR on Tuesday October 9th and arrive on the grounds of Parliament Tuesday, October 16th, with stops in between as follows:

Tue Oct 9th - leave Campbell River 10:00 am, arrive Courtenay

Wed Oct 10th - leave Courtenay, arrive Qualicum

Thu Oct 11th - leave Qualicum, arrive Parksville

Fri Oct 12th - leave Parksville, arrive Nanaimo

Sat Oct 13th - leave Nanaimo, arrive Ladysmith/Chemainus

Sun Oct 14th - leave Ladysmith/Chemainus, arrive Duncan

Mon Oct 15th - leave Duncan, arrive Victoria

Tue Oct 16th - arrive at Parliament 1:00 pm!

Each community/area is asked to prepare for Shelagh's visit by creating a local "mini-event" at a time and location of their choice. One idea is to invite local runners/bikers/walkers to join Shelagh as she approaches and/or departs from each area. Your local event may include participation from surrounding areas e.g. Port Alberni to send runners to join up with Shelagh in Qualicum. Food is always a good idea! You may wish to have a community breakfast to send Shelagh on her way, or an evening festivity or...the possibilities are endless! Pull together your local movers and shakers and use your imaginations!

We ask each community to produce one or more banners to be displayed "en masse" at Parliament, using 45 inch wide poly-cotton broadcloth (around \$4 metre) with colourful children's footprints and your community name. These banners will be pinned together to form one long and impressive display in Victoria!

Each community needs to:

1. organize a small committee or use an existing one to assist with the event and assign a contact person to be in communication with the CR steering committee:
Gwen Bennett 286-1193 caris@island.net or
Shelagh Germyn 850-1110 shelaghgermyn@hotmail.com)
2. decide where the event/gathering place will be & communicate it back to us
3. contact all types of local media (newspaper, radio & TV)
4. contact and involve local government (municipal, MLA, etc) - VERY IMPORTANT!!!!
5. communicate with all child care centers in your area
6. communicate to and invite any running/walking/biking groups for support and involvement
7. invite other interested groups (parenting, Success by Six, family services, etc)
8. invite other pertinent groups (Chamber of Commerce, business and industry, etc.)
9. send as many representatives as you can to be at the Parliament buildings in Victoria on the 16th
10. organize the banners and have them ready to be passed on to Shelagh for carrying to Victoria
11. order A Million Steps for Child Care t-shirts as desired (more info to follow)

Thank you so much for your participation in A Million Steps for Child Care. Please find attached a poster for your use to adapt to meet the needs of your community. Together we can help maintain the momentum towards a universal child care system that is Affordable, Accessible and Achievable! We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,

The Campbell River "A Million Steps for Child Care" Steering Committee.